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54. (new) The recombinant adenovirus^{al vector} of Claim 46 in which the region of the E4 early gene region which is deleted or mutated is open reading frame 6.

55. (new) The packaging cell line of Claim 39, 48, 49 or 50 in which the cell line is a 293-derived cell line.--

REMARKS

Attorneys for Applicant thank the Examiner for the courteous teleconference on June 30, 1997 in which the proposed Examiner's amendment was discussed.

The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. New Claims 51-54 are fully supported by the working examples of the instant application (see instant specification, page 27, line 19 to page 28, line 13, and page 28, line 16 to page 30, line 1). In particular, new Claims 51 and 52 are drawn to replication-defective adenoviruses which contain deletions or mutations in open reading frame 4 or 6 of the E4 early gene region. New Claims 53 and 54 are drawn to recombinant adenoviral vectors encoding replication defective adenoviruses containing a deletion or mutation in open reading frame 4 or 6 of the E4 early gene region. Applicants believe all the claims to be in condition for allowance.

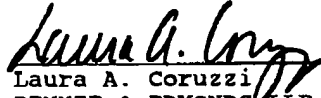
Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Applicants submit herewith Fallaux et al., 1996, Human Gene Therapy 7(2):215-222, which demonstrates that cells other than 293-derived cells can express Ela and support replication of adenoviruses.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,

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 30,742
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Enclosure